United Nations S/2003/710

Security Council

Distr.: General
15 July 2003
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 15 July 2003 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 1 April 2003 the Committee established pursuant to paragraph 6 of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) (the Counter-Terrorism Committee) submitted a work programme for the seventh 90-day period (S/2003/387). Annexed hereto is the Committee's work programme for the eighth 90-day period (see annex).

The Committee will continue to work with States on the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), operating on the principles of cooperation, transparency and equal treatment. The Committee's main objectives will continue to be: raising the international community's awareness of the fact that every terrorist act is a threat to international peace and security, with emphasis on practical measures designed to increase the means available to all States Members of the United Nations in combating terrorism; identifying sources of assistance for those States that are experiencing difficulty in implementing resolution 1373; continuing the process leading to universal participation in the 12 international conventions and protocols relating to counter-terrorism and taking all necessary steps to facilitate the full implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

In order to attain those general objectives, the Committee will increase its work relating to technical assistance and will strengthen its cooperation with international organizations in accordance with the follow-up action plan adopted following the special meeting that was held on 6 March 2003 between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and international organizations. To that end, the Committee will continue to improve its contacts with international, regional and subregional organizations and will prepare the follow-up meeting to be held in October 2003 at the headquarters of the Organization of American States.

The Committee welcomes the support it has received from Member States, the Secretariat and international, regional and subregional organizations, and pays tribute to the contribution of its team of independent experts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Inocencio F. **Arias**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established pursuant to
resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism

03-42931 (E) 170703 170703

Annex

Work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (1 July-30 September 2003)

1. This document sets out the work programme of the Counter-Terrorism Committee for its eighth 90-day period, from 1 July to 30 September 2003. This work programme updates that submitted for the seventh 90-day period (S/2003/387).

Summary

2. The Committee will:

(a) By 31 July:

- Ensure that the Secretariat has submitted the design of the new web site and will continue to update its content in all six official languages of the United Nations
- Circulate the matrix on a monthly basis, with a view to identifying assistance needs and offers
- Continue to develop criteria for the drafting of letters to States that have reached stage B
- Send a second round of letters to international, regional and subregional organizations, supplementing the 17 letters already sent
- Complete the review of 350 reports

(b) By 30 August:

- Complete the review of 380 reports

(c) By 31 September:

- Continue to deepen cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations
- Complete the review of 425 reports

I. Implementation of resolution 1373 (2001)

3. The Committee and its subcommittees will continue to review the reports submitted by States pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

4. By 30 June 2003, the Committee had received 385 reports from States and others. That includes first reports from 191 Member States and others, second reports from 154 Member States and others and third reports from 35 Member States. To date, all States have submitted their first reports, which represents a significant step towards obtaining from all of them one of the primary objectives of resolution 1373 (2001) and of the Committee itself, namely, a universal commitment to the fight against terrorism.

5. Nevertheless, 36 States are late in submitting their reports. The Committee, through the subcommittee chairpersons, has therefore contacted the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of those States in order to ascertain and help to address the reasons for the delay by identifying possible sources of technical

assistance that would enable the States in question to move ahead and thus comply fully with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001).

6. In accordance with resolution 1456 (2003), the Committee will report regularly on progress made by States regarding their obligation to report to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 6 of resolution 1373 (2001).

7. Pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001), paragraph 3 (d), which calls upon all States to become parties as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, the Committee will remain committed to ensuring that the largest possible number of States become party to the 12 pertinent international conventions and protocols and incorporate this important body of international law into their domestic legislation. In September 2001, fewer than a dozen States were parties to all those 12 international conventions and protocols. By 30 June 2003, the number had increased to over 40, which represents considerable progress. However, much remains to be done, given that while some of the conventions and protocols have high participation rates, others have very low rates. Another important issue is unequal geographical distribution, and its possible causes will have to be analysed carefully, in order to permit the Committee to work with the States concerned and ensure that the international community presents a united front against the scourge of terrorism.

II. Work of the Committee

8. In previous work programmes, the Committee has divided its work into three stages: A, focusing on legislation; B, emphasizing the strengthening of States' executive machinery; and C, during which cooperation mechanisms at different levels are established and reinforced. Such a framework allows the Committee to implement one of its working principles, namely, equal treatment. This specific approach ensures that the Committee considers each State on the basis of its actual situation and resists the temptation to apply models, moulds or general rules to situations which differ greatly from one another. It must also be borne in mind that the three stages are a tool to facilitate the Committee's monitoring of the progress made by each State as regards prompt implementation of the measures set forth in resolution 1373 (2001), and ensures that the Committee does not lose sight of its basic goal, namely, to verify implementation of the resolution.

9. While pursuing a case-by-case approach, the Committee, in monitoring the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) will bear in mind all international best practices, codes and standards that are relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001), and will continue to strengthen its cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations carrying out important work in this area.

III. Technical assistance

10. The provision of technical assistance to such countries as need it will remain one of the Committee's priorities. To date, the Committee has, for the most part, made use of two tools in dealing with this important task, namely, the matrix and the Directory of Assistance. Both have been essential, but are now displaying certain limitations in adapting to the growing importance of the issue. The Committee is currently acting essentially as a channel of communication between States that need assistance and donors and is focusing on identifying needs and possible assistance programmes to meet those needs. In the near future, that role will have to be

enhanced, in order to allow the Committee to take a more active approach, whereby not only does it put requesting States in contact with donors but it also exerts an influence over both elements of technical assistance, namely, supply and demand.

11. With regard to the demand for assistance, the Committee, in cooperation with its experts, must continue to assist the State that requires support until such time as it is provided. On the supply side, the Committee must be able to offer guidance to States and international organizations on the expediency and criteria for the development and implementation of their respective technical assistance programmes in the area of counter-terrorism. In this connection, the Committee will be faced with the challenge of adapting its working methods to this new vision.

12. In conclusion, an enhanced and more active role for the Committee in the area of technical assistance will make it necessary to revise the current work programme of its experts. This is not a matter of urgency that needs to be immediately resolved, but should be borne in mind for consideration in the near future.

13. The Committee has developed a "Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance", available on its web site (www.un.org/sc/ctc). The Directory is designed to be a source of information on counter-terrorism-related best practices, model laws and available assistance programmes. The Committee encourages all States seeking assistance or guidance in the matters covered by resolution 1373 (2001) to use this online information tool.

14. The Committee and its experts are ready, wherever possible, to facilitate the provision of assistance programmes to States in order to further implementation of resolution 1373 (2001).

IV. Transparency in the work of the Committee

15. Transparency will continue to be a hallmark of the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

16. The Committee will continue to provide information on its activities on a regular basis, including through briefings by the Chairman to interested delegations, similar to the most recent, which was held on 16 May.

17. The Committee has an informative web site (www.un.org/sc/ctc) that will increasingly become an essential source of information on all aspects of resolution 1373 (2001).

18. The Chairman and the Committee's experts will continue to maintain close relations with organizations and agencies of the United Nations system on aspects relevant to international counter-terrorism efforts, within the scope of the mandate contained in resolution 1373 (2001).

19. States are encouraged to make direct contact with the subcommittees or experts to seek any clarification necessary on the issues covered in their correspondence with the Committee or on any other issue (Tel: 1-212-963-3520 or 1-212-457-1886; fax: 1-212-963-7878; e-mail: ctc@un.org).

20. The Committee will continue to develop and update its web site as a source of detailed information on all issues related to resolution 1373 (2001). It will maintain and enhance its "Directory of Counter-Terrorism Information and Sources of Assistance", creating new areas devoted to other aspects of international

cooperation. The Committee offers all international, regional and subregional organizations the opportunity to submit information on their activities and action plans in order to distribute them more widely among States that need assistance in complying with the provisions of resolution 1373 (2001). The Committee encourages organizations to submit information on international best practices, codes and standards relevant to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and on any modes of assistance and guidance in applying and implementing those best practices, codes and standards.

21. While establishing a global information network on counter-terrorism that also covers technical assistance aspects is proving a complex challenge, the Committee will continue its efforts to ensure that this task is completed as part of the future development of its web site. States are encouraged to make information available on their own aims and activities, using the Committee and its web site as a tool for disseminating such information, and, where possible, to participate in activities organized by other States and international organizations, thereby developing practical cooperation in counter-terrorism matters.

V. Cooperation between the Committee and international, regional and subregional organizations

22. The Committee will continue to expand its contacts and cooperation with international, regional and subregional organizations, as agreed following the first meeting held on 6 March. The drafting and adoption by the Committee of an internal working paper establishing specific criteria to be followed in this regard was an important step. The Chairman sent letters to 17 international organizations asking them to strengthen their existing cooperation and proposing specific aspects on which he felt such cooperation should focus. In a second stage, this group of organizations will be expanded to include others that are also carrying out relevant counter-terrorism programmes.

23. The Chairman and the Committee's experts will continue to establish contacts with organizations outside the United Nations and to provide information on the Committee's work through attendance at various meetings and conferences.

24. In October 2003, the second CTC meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations will be held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States. The Committee is grateful for the hospitality of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) and will continue working with it to ensure that the outcomes of the meeting are as useful as those of the first meeting, which was held on 6 March 2003 at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

25. The Committee held a meeting on 15 May 2003 with representatives of the World Customs Organization, the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Interpol, at which there was also a contribution from the secretariat of the Basel Convention. The meeting highlighted the importance for counter-terrorism efforts of imposing strict controls on nuclear, chemical, biological and other deadly materials and of denying terrorist groups and organizations access thereto. The Committee will continue dealing with the issue in order to identify the best way of helping to prevent this obvious threat to international peace and security from materializing.